CANADIAN

PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Exploratory Survey.

REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ORDER IN COUNCIL, IN REFERENCE TO THE

LOSS OF LIFE OF OFFICERS AND MEN,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE SURVEY, IN THE YEAR

1873.

OTTAWA:
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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY,

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF,

Ottawa, February, 1874.

The Government of Canada having passed an Order in Council granting certain allowances to the representatives of those who have lost their lives in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, during the past year—

The undersigned has been charged by the Honorable, the Minister of Public Works with the duty of paying over the money granted to those who were most dependent on the deceased and who appear most entitled to receive it. He therefore solicits from friends and relatives of the deceased such information as will enable him to carry out the generous intentions of the Government.

SANDFORD FLEMING.

LOSS OF LIFE IN 1873.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY,

Ottawa, 26th January, 1874.

SANDFORD FLEMING, Esq.,
Engineer in Chief.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to submit the following Report of serious accidents which occurred on this work during the past summer, to take the place of one, on the same subject, which was destroyed by the late fire.

The first accident occurred on the 24th July last at Whitefish Lake, near the starting point of Division M, 1873. By it three packmen lost their lives whose names were

Joseph Hughes, Devizes P. O., London, Ontario.
Arthur Torrie, Milleburgh..... "
Neil Patterson, Napanee..... "

The particulars of the accident are as follows:—Three men, namely, Joseph Hughes, Arthur Torrie, and Henry Thomas, were crossing Whitefish Lake in a small canoe, and when near the depot, which was established on the shore of that lake, the canoe, by some accident, upset in 23 feet of water, about 100 feet from the shore.

Neil Patterson who happened to be standing there and saw the accident, swam bravely out to their assistance, but was seized hold of by Hughes and they both sank together.

A. Torrie also went down abont the same time, but Henry Thomas, said to be the poorest swimmer of the three, succeeded in reaching the land.

By this time, some of the men at the depot attracted by the cries, ran down to the beach, but were too late to render any assistance.

It was estimated by these men that the whole thing occurred within three minutes.

Three days afterwards the bodies were recovered and buried in one grave, near the depot, a board being placed at its head, having the names of the men and the date of their death written upon it.

What little personal effects they had were forwarded to the Head Office, Ottawa, and were destroyed in the late fire. They were, however, of little value and consisted of some wearing apparel.

At the date of their deaths the following amounts were due to them for wages:

J. Hughes.....	$40 75
A. Torrie.....	44 79
N. Patterson.....	29 19

Before concluding the reference to this accident, I would respectfully suggest that, as Neil Patterson lost his life in the effort to save others, his case deserves special consideration.

The second accident occurred on the 21st October, at Red Rock, while the parties were waiting the arrival of a steamer to take them home.

By it a Foreman Packer, Wm. Playter, of Toronto, was lamed for life.

He was cutting wood for the camp fires on the above named date when his axe glanced from a tree and cut his foot, severing all the tendons. It was dressed by some of the party to which he belonged, but owing to there being no Surgeon at hand, it was imperfectly done, and when he arrived at Collingwood, it had so far healed as to render it impossible to remedy the defect.

This young man is most highly spoken of, for the manner in which he discharged his duties, by Mr. McConnell, the Engineer in charge of the party; and I can myself bear testimony to the fact that he seemed to be qualified for a higher position than he then occupied.

I had enclosed with my former Report, a letter received from him since his return home, which fully bore out my opinion of him.

If something could be done in the way of procuring for him a position as clerk in an office, I believe it would be more satisfactory to him than a pecuniary consideration.

He was paid in full to the date of his discharge, and I directed that he should be given two months pay extra, amounting to $66.00, to support him until able to move about again.

In addition to the above mentioned loss of life by accident, I regret extremely having to report the loss of two of our "chief commissariat officers in the field;" whose deaths, if not caused, were at least accelerated by unavoidable hardship and exposure to which they were exposed while engaged carrying out their very arduous duties.

The first of these was Mr. John P. Robson, formerly of St. John, N. B., who received an appointment, in the above named capacity, when this work was commenced in 1871, at which time he removed his family to Kingston, Ontario, where they at present reside.

During the past summer, Mr. Robson was stationed at Red Rock, Nepigon Bay, Lake Superior. I left him there when I returned to Ottawa for a short time, on the 6th September; and upon going up there again about the 15th October, (I can not speak exactly as to dates, my diary having been destroyed in the fire) I found that he had been taken on board the steamer *Cumberland*, the day before my arrival, in an insensible state, and, I subsequently learned, died on the passage down, the day after leaving Red Rock.

The complaint of which he died was, I believe, neuralgia in the head.

Mr. Robson's duties during the past summer, was to receive all supplies brought to Red Rock by steamer, keeping an exact account thereof; he then had to superintend personally the forwarding of them, in such quantities as were required by the engineer in charge, to the principal depot of each party, in the interior of the country. From which point, the engineer's commissariat officer saw to their being forwarded along the line of exploration.

The number of parties for which Mr. Robson had to provide were four, and the distance of their depots from Red Rock varied from 10 miles to 100 miles.

He had also to keep account of Government and Hudson's Bay Co.'s stores supplied to the men, and the paying off of men who were discharged during the progress of the work.

These various duties, some of which subjected him to considerable hardship and exposure, he performed in a faithful and energetic manner.

In consequence of Mr. Robson's sudden death, considerable difficulty was experienced in closing his accounts.

But with Mr. Price's assistance, this was effected in as correct a manner as possible under the circumstances.

So far as can be recollected, Mr. Robson's account shewed a balance against

him of about $117.00; this can be accounted for by the facts that his funeral expenses, amounting to $100.00 have been placed to his debit, and also a sum of $45.00, being a payment on power of attorney to one of the men, which was not deducted from the man by Mr. Price when settling with him subsequently, owing to the entry in Mr. Robson's book not being sufficiently explicit for a stranger to understand; although, no doubt, it would have been clear to him had he lived to settle matters himself.

I would therefore respectfully recommend, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, that these two sums, amounting to $145.00, be placed to his credit, leaving the balance in his favor $28.00.

Since his death, the sum of $200.00 has been advanced to his family, in anticipation of the usual grant being made to them by Government.

The second commissariat officer, whose death I regret to have to record, was Mr. Nathan. L. Price, late of Grand Falls, New Brunswick, where his family still reside. He, also, has been employed in the same capacity, since the commencement of this work in 1871.

His duties were, to receive the supplies for Division M, at Prince Arthur's Landing, Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, and superintend the forwarding of them to the Main depot of the Division, in the interior of the country, a distance of over 100 miles; also their distribution to various other depots along the route to be explored. Having performed this difficult service in a most satisfactory manner, he came to Red Rock and, after the departure of Mr. Robson as already described, took charge of affairs at that point; assisting in closing the accounts and paying off the men, upon the completion of the season's work. After the departure of most of the parties from Red Rock, on their way home, he arranged and took stock of all the Government stores, leaving them in good order for next season's operations.

He then returned with me to Ottawa, and while engaged in closing his own and Mr. Robson's accounts, was taken ill very suddenly and died in a few days of Hemorrigic scurvy; which the doctor who attended him stated was brought on by hardships and exposure while out in the woods.

His accounts were all closed in a most satisfactory manner, and the time of his death there was a balance due to him on account of salary of $327.00, as near as can be remembered.

But of this balance the sum of $200.00 has been sent to his wife since his death, and his board bill in Ottawa, $23.00 has also been paid.

Besides these, there is a bill for medical attendance during his last illness of $20.00 and funeral expenses $53.00. Total $73.00 charged against him.

These two last items, I would respectfully recommend, as I have also done in the case of Mr. Robson, should be placed to his credit. I cannot close this report without expressing my sincere sympathy with the families of these two officers in their sad bereavement. I take the same opportunity to state that, from the day they joined the service until the date of their respective deaths, they fulfilled the very arduous duties entrusted to them in a most trustworthy and satisfactory manner, which duties were of such a peculiar character that it will be difficult to find others to discharge them.

I remain Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JAMES H. ROWAN.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY,

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF,

Ottawa, February 7th, 1874.

The Hon. ALEX. MACKENZIE,
&c., &c., &c.,
Minister of Public Works.

SIR,

It is my painful duty to bring under your notice some particulars respecting loss of life in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Survey during the year 1873.

The accompanying Report of Mr. Rowan will be found to give the facts, in each case, as far as known.

I may be permitted to observe that the survey sustained similar losses during the year 1871 and 1872, for particulars see my Report of January 28th, 1873, and the Government passed an order on the 31st May of the same year, authorizing payment to the representatives of the deceased of an allowance equivalent to eighteen months of their relative pay in each case.

The names, position and pay of the poor men lost are as follows:—

John P. Robson,	Commissariat Officer.....	$100	per month.
Nathaniel L. Price,	do	100	"
J. Hughes,	Axeman	30	"
A. Torrie,	do	30	"
N. Patterson,	do	30	"

In all cases, I have ordered the payment of the expenses connected with the death and burial of the deceased.

The families of the poor men, depending on their salary for support, have been left in straitened circumstances, and I have, in some cases, taken upon myself to make a small advance on account of any compensatory allowance the Government may be pleased to grant.

From time to time, there have been accidents of various kinds, that fortunately have not resulted fatally, but it is proper that I should allude to one of rather a serious nature, as the man injured is lamed for life. The particulars of this case are also given in the attached Report, the man's name is William Playter, he appears to be a respectable, well educated young man, and an appointment to a position as clerk in an office, would probably be a more satisfactory way of compensating him than a grant of money.

I respectfully submit these several cases for the generous consideration of the Government.

I am, &c.,

Your obedient servant,

SANDFORD FLEMING.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,

Ottawa, February 26th, 1874.

SIR,

I beg to herein enclose for your information, copy of an order in council, dated the 13th of February 1874, granting an allowance equivalent to eighteen months pay to the representatives of the officers and men who lost their lives in the Canadian Pacific Railway Survey, during the year 1873.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. BRAUN, Secretary.

S. FLEMING, Esq.,
Chief Engineer C.P.R.,
Ottawa.

COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable, the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 13th February, 1874.

The committee have had in consideration the memorandum dated the 11th February, 1874, from the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, stating that the following officers and men, who lost their lives whilst employed on the survey of the Canadian Pacific Railway, during the year 1873, viz:—

J. P. Robson,	commissariat officer.....	$100	per month.
Nath. L. Price,	do	100	"
J. Hughes,	Axeman	30	"
A. Torrie,	do	30	"
N. Patterson,	do	30	"

and stating briefly the circumstances attending the same and recommending that he be authorized to grant to the representatives of these officers and men, an allowance equivalent to eighteen months of their pay, similar allowances having been made by order of Your Excellency, dated the 31st May, 1873, for like losses of life on the said survey, during the years 1871 and 1872.

The minister further represents that William Playter, foreman packer, salary $33 a month, had his foot so severely injured by the axe, which glanced from the tree, that he must remain lame for life, and recommending that he be employed in the civil service.

The committee submit the foregoing recommendations for Your Excellency's approval.

Certified,

(Signed,) W. A. HIMSWORTH.

LIVES LOST ON THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY SURVEY, 1873.—With Statement of Account in each Case.

No.	Name.	Rank.	Pay per month.		Date of Engagement	Date of Death.	Balance due on account of services to time of death.		Compensation. Advanced to family on account		Balance to Debit.		Balance to Credit.		Granted by Order in Council.		Balance now payable	
	Staff.		$	cts.	1871.	1873.	$	cts.	$	cts.	$	cts.			$	cts.	$	c.
	John P. Robson.	Commissariat Officer.....	100	00	June.	October 22	28	00	200	00	172	00	.....	....	1,800	00	1,628	00
	Nat. L. Price....	do	100	00	June.	December 30	327	00	200	00	.....	.....	127	00	1,800	00	1,927	00
	Men.				1873.	1873.												
	J. Hughes.....	Axeman.....	30	00	June 6	July 24	44	79	44	79	.....	.....	.....	....	540	00	540	00
	A. Torrie.....	do	30	00	"	"	40	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	75	540	00	580	75
	N. Patterson....	do	30	00	"	"	29	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	19	540	00	569	19

CHARLES O. PALMER,

Accountant.